

REMARKS

This Amendment after Final Rejection is filed in response to the Final Office Action mailed April 27, 2006. All objections and rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-27 and 29 currently pending in the case.

Claims 11, 17, and 21 were amended.

No new claims have been added.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

At page 2 of the Final Office Action, claims 1-27, 29 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as anticipated by Buchholz et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,440,545, issued on August 8, 1995 (hereinafter Buchholz).

The Applicant's claim 11, representative in part of the other rejected claims, sets forth:

11. A method for reassembling a packet by a network device, the method comprising the steps of:
 receiving a plurality of fragments associated with the packet;
 determining if all the fragments for the packet have been received;
 and
 issuing a request to reassemble the packet to a reassembly assist function if all the fragments for the packet have been received.

Buchholz discloses a packet switching system that reassembles fragments of a fragmented data packet. The packet switching system includes a central processor (*see* Fig. 1, 110) and a reassembly control structure (*see* Fig. 2, 214). When a first fragment of a particular fragmented packet arrives at the packet switching system, the reassembly control structure (*see* Fig. 2, 214) generates a packet start interrupt (*see* Fig. 11, 1150), and sends it to the central processor. *See* col. 13, lines 7-11 and col. 14, lines 15-18. Thereafter, the reassembly control structure reassembles the fragments with "minimal

processor intervention. *See* col. 5, lines 6-26, 31-40 and col. 2, lines 4-6. Finally, when all the fragments of the packet are received and reassembled, a Packet Complete Interrupt (*see* Fig. 11, 1140) is generated by the reassembly control structure, and is sent to the central processor. In response to this interrupt, the central processor directs retransmission of the reassembled packet. *See* col. 13, lines 7-11 and lines 61-68.

The Applicant respectfully urges that Buchholz is silent concerning the Applicant's claimed "*issuing a request to reassemble the packet to a reassembly assist function if all the fragments for the packet have been received.*"

First, instead of disclosing *issuing a request* to a special *reassembly assist function*, Buchholz instead discloses issuing an interrupt (in a sense a request) by a reassembly control structure to another device. Specifically, Buchholz describes a Packet Complete Interrupt (*see* Fig. 11, 1140) is sent by the reassembly control structure (*see* Fig. 2, 214) to the central processor when all fragments of the packet have been received and reassembled, and the packet is ready for transmission. Thus, in Buchholz, the reassembly control structure does not receive a request telling it that *all the fragments for the packet have been received*, but instead sends this information to the processor, to direct and control the processor's actions.

Second, Buchholz is silent concerning *a request to reassemble the packet* that is issued to a reassembly assist function. As the Examiner points out, Buchholz's reassembly control structure may receive other types of requests, for example acknowledgement signals (ACKs). *See* Final Office Action page 5, 3rd full paragraph). Yet, such other types of requests may not fairly be interpreted as *a request to reassemble the packet*, since they perform other functions and in no way indicate a packet should be reassembled. For example, an ACK indicates a fragment has been received, rather than that a packet should be reassembled.

Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully urges that Buchholz is legally insufficient to anticipate the present claims under 35 U.S.C. §102 because of the absence of the Ap-

plicant's claimed novel "*issuing a request to reassemble the packet to a reassembly assist function if all the fragments for the packet have been received.*"

The Applicant's claim 1, representative in part of the other rejected claims, sets forth:

1. A method for reassembling a packet by a network device, the method comprising the steps of:
 locating a fragment packet descriptor associated with the packet;
 and
 placing the contents of the fragment packet descriptor in a packet descriptor associated with the packet.

The Applicant respectfully urges that Buchholz is silent concerning the Applicant's claimed "*placing the contents of the fragment packet descriptor in a packet descriptor.*"

While the Applicant claims a *fragment packet descriptor* and a *packet descriptor*, and *placing the contents of the fragment packet descriptor in a packet descriptor*, the portion of Buchholz cited by the Examiner simply mentions packet descriptors in general, and in no way suggests placing one type of descriptor, a *fragment packet descriptor*, in another type of descriptor, a *packet descriptor*. Indeed, Buchholz mentions descriptors in connection with "received transmission packets not requiring reassembly." More specifically, Buchholz states at col. 6, lines 26-34 (emphasis added).

The virtual circuit ID field 510 contains information that specifies a virtual circuit register contained within packet switch 140 of FIG. 2. The virtual circuit register points to or addresses a queue control block which in turn points to read and write packet descriptors which can point to an additional packet descriptor, as well as to read and write buffer descriptors. *The buffer descriptors each point to a write buffer and to a next read and write buffer descriptor, thereby forming a chain or link of addresses for defining which buffer location the message data portion of a received transmission packet not requiring reassembly will be stored.*

Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully urges the Examiner has misinterpreted these portions of Buchholz, and that Buchholz is legally insufficient to anticipate the present claims under 35 U.S.C. §102 because of the absence of the Applicant's claimed novel "*placing the contents of the fragment packet descriptor in a packet descriptor.*"

In the event that the Examiner deems personal contact desirable in disposition of this case, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned attorney at (617) 951-2500.

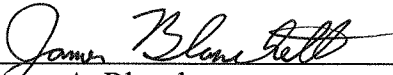
All independent claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

All dependent claims are believed to be dependent from allowable independent claims.

The Applicant respectfully solicits favorable action.

Please charge any additional fee occasioned by this paper to our Deposit Account No. 03-1237.

Respectfully submitted,



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